SU43 – Brazil or not Brazil? Who really cares anymore?

StudsUp

October 1999

$3
Brilliant value if you enjoy your soccer from a slightly different angle

The Australian Fans' Perspective

WANTED: More Jocks in Melbourne

(and it's not just the sliding tackles causing skidmarks)

Plus – Ange IS right, the media IS crap
Plus – Some right royal worriez over the Kingz
Plus – Oz v Brazil?? Plus – Max Tolson Part 2

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DISCLAIMER (of sorts)

Studs Up is a fanzine, and should be treated as such. The opinions expressed in each issue have usually been influenced by decades of watching Australian soccer repeatedly shoot itself in the foot, both at domestic and international levels. Moreover, these views may also have been clouded through years of alcoholic and non- alcoholic beverages.

However, no offence or offense is intended and none should be taken.

If you believe you have been misquoted or misrepresented then at least give us the courtesy of talking to us before you sue us – you'll realise there's no point 'cos we don't have any money anyway.

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Dear Basil – it's time to go

Expo, Man Utd, Blanco, Brazil, NSL – what's next?

Studs Up is approaching its fifth birthday, which suggests a number of things.

Firstly, it shows that there has been a close-knit bunch of fans prepared to give up an enormous amount of their spare time to keep SU alive. For any fanzine to go five years is quite an achievement. For a national fanzine to survive is truly astonishing (but that's enough soapboxing for the time being).

Secondly, it suggests there is no shortage of worthwhile incidents to document. In the case of Studs Up, which has tended to revel in highlighting the inadequacies of the game and its administrators, we have always had an abundance of material to work with over the past five years.

But just lately we have become so nauseated by the way soccer is handled in this country we feel we have no alternative but to request the resignations of a number of senior officials, and there is no better place to start than at the very top.

So, with not a great deal of regret, we respectfully request the immediate resignation of Basil Scarsella.

Unfortunately the 'moderate' chairman who took over when David Hill decided to play politics of a different variety has hardly put a foot right. He ignored the opportunity for Soccer Australia to play a leading role at the International Soccer Expo. He left Raul Blanco exposed to all sorts of innuendo while the national coaching position was on the frontburner at the exact time we couldn't get our overseas based players back to play the reigning European club champions.

Oh, and we shouldn't forget his passive role in the Brazil tour scandal. Even the most patient of fans are getting sick of Kewell-type on-again-off-again sagas and the way we have been pushed around by the likes of the CBF.

But worst of all, he has overseen the shambles that has become the 1999-2000 National Soccer League season.

It would be too simple to say that Basil hasn't got the guts to make the tough decisions. After all, he was elected to be a 'moderate' and provide a calming influence after the Hill tornado.

Unfortunately, all he has done is oversee the gradual disintegration of the board, a further drop in overall playing standards, the slow death of some of the league's member clubs and continuing debacle surrounding our national team programme.

The Adelaide Sharks saga marked a new low point in Basil's (non) leadership. We can only conclude that his South Australian roots must have acted as a blindfold because everyone else has seen the writing on the wall for months.

The Sharks' administrator, Bruce Mulvaney, was sceptical from the start, and it seems that even the original application to re-join the NSL had an illegitimate twist to it. By early September when the first payment in the scheme of arrangement had not been made, Basil should have swung the axe.

The pathetic sight of West Adelaide hanging on by a thread and the unwillingness of Soccer Australia to get the scissors was detrimental to the image of the league, and certainly a worry to any potential sponsors.

Then, of course, the second payment wasn't met. Still, SocAus refused to intervene, and yet when the plug was finally pulled a mere week before the season kicks off, Mr Scarsella seriously entertained overtures by the South Australian Soccer Federation regarding getting a 'new' team up and running over the weekend.

What soccer in this country needs most of all right now is strong leadership. Given what we have witnessed in the past six months, the chairman has surely placed himself in an untenable position.

Dear SocAus - It's time to take us on board.

One of the worst side-effects of hooliganism is that it has made it so much more difficult for the well-behaved supporter to gain some recognition and respect from the football authorities. Although the genuine fan is in the majority, the excesses of the few have persuaded football's rulers to believe that no fans are to be trusted.

That is plainly nonsense, and the sooner the notion is discarded the better. For, as I keep on saying, the game belongs to the fan. It belongs to him not in the sense that he should be able to interfere directly with the running of his team, but in the sense that he should have a big say in the way his club is run.

People do think about the fan, but not enough. In the thrashing out of what the game's going to be, he should be represented strongly. I'm not quite sure how that can be brought about, but perhaps the media could help.

Terry Venables, 1996

Apologies to anti-Venables types like Lee Murray for using so many TV words of wisdom but to be honest we would have struggled to come up with anything better ourselves. It may come as a surprise to some that Terry Venables would write the above passage, but while he was no doubt referring to the English fans, the same could well be written about fans all over the globe, and most definitely in Australia.

Amongst the dozens of stakeholders in Australian soccer, that is, people and institutions that actually vote on the key issues, there are no players, no coaches and no fans. As we've pointed out previously, until that situation is altered the fans will feel no genuine involvement.

As Australian clubs try to come to grips with the long overdue 'professionalisation' of the sport, it seems remarkable that so little input is sought from the people they are trying to attract. Market research is not so much a dying art as never having been born.

Think about it, how often has a club official introduced himself and asked whether you're enjoying yourself? How often have you seen a committee member on the terraces in the hissing rain huddled under his umbrella?

Supporters clubs are a relatively new phenomenon in this country, and while their efforts are usually designed to assist the club in practical ways there is at least one supporters club that is ready to take their involvement a step further.

Taking the lead from coach Angie Postecoglou, the South Melbourne Supporters Group have decided to take their gripe direct to the media (see page 10). The SMSG are in the process of collecting signatures on a petition which will be presented to each commercial television station in the country. The petition reads:

South Melbourne Soccer Club will be representing Australia at the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil in January 2000 against world famous clubs including Manchester United and Vasco da Gama. We are petitioning commercial television to give South Melbourne and the tournament greater coverage.

Group organiser Peter Karlsidmas is happy for copies of the petition to be mailed anywhere in Australia. For Melbourne readers, copies will be 'everywhere' at the South v Knights match at Bob Jane Stadium on November 7.

As Pete says: *"It's not just about South Melbourne, it's about getting Australian soccer a better deal and more media coverage"*

Amen.

Brazil or not Brazil? That was the question.

And the fans weren't given the decency of an honest answer.

"It's going to be a sensational tour, one way or the other"

- Bruce 'Sensational' McAveney, SportsWorld, Oct 31

For once, Bruce was spot on with a comment on soccer. Having just shown an interview with Harry Kewell which targeted his on again/off again appearance for the Socceroos, Bruce showed a far greater level of sympathy for Kewell than is currently afforded by the majority of fans and the media. But while Leeds United manager David O'Leary is being painted as the villain in the piece, the buck must surely stop with Soccer Australia and IMG.

The CBF have had eyes on their Olympic squad for some time, with the South American qualifiers set down for early 2000, a quick trip to the finals venue was always the preferred option yet they allowed SocAus to dupe the public with the time-honoured line *'we'll be sending our best available squad'*.

How much easier to would have been for Australia to insist the CBF sign a declaration that the matches would be 'A' internationals.

Meanwhile the Kewell stew was coming to the boil and suddenly everyone was keen to invoke that mysterious FIFA ruling which allows for the release of players for full internationals. The fact that the two matches against Brazil may not actually carry full international status tended to be overlooked.

It was somewhat remarkable that SOCOG received such a shellacking from the media over the dishonesty surrounding the Olympic Games ticketing allocation, yet the organisers of the Brazilian tour have escaped similar treatment. From where we sit, SocAus and IMG have been blatently lying to the public for months!

If you bought a ticket, we can only hope it wasn't an expensive one!

Australia			**Brazil**	
Paul Agostino	TSV1860 Munich		Renato	Corinthians
Mark Bosnich	Manchester United		Silvio	Sao Caetano
Steve Corica	Wolverhampton Wanderers		Alexandre	Ponte Preta
Brett Emerton	Sydney Olympic		Mancini	Atletico Mineiro
Richard Johnson	Watford		Michel	Santos
Zeljko Kalac	Roda J C		Cris	Cruzeiro
** Harry Kewell	Leeds United		Alvaro	Goias
Steve Laybutt	Bellmare Hiratsuka		Fabio Bilica	Venezia
Stan Lazaridis	Birmingham City		Luiz Alberto	Flamengo
Craig Moore	Glasgow Rangers		Milton Do O	Parana Clube
Damian Mori	Adelaide Force		Dede	Borussia Dortmund
Kevin Muscat	Wolverhampton Wanderers		Athirson	Flamengo
Paul Okon	Fiorentina		Marcos Paulo	Cruzeiro
Josip Skoko	Hadjuk Split		Fabiano	Sao Paulo
Danny Tiatto	Manchester City		Mozart	Coritiba
Tony Vidmar	Glasgow Rangers		Adriano	Atletico Paranaense
Mark Viduka	Glasgow Celtic		Felipe	Vasco da Gama
Ned Zelic	TSV1860 Munich		Alex	Palmeiras
			Denilson	Real Betis
			Ronaldinho	Gremio
			Ronaldo	Inter Milan
			Fabio Junior	Roma
			Warley	Udinese Calcio

Ange IS right – South Melbourne IS great

But sometimes you need more than just facts

First we should set the scene. South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou is flanked by Northern Spirit coach Graham Arnold, facing the press after his side had just completed a comfortable, if not convincing, 2-0 victory over the visitors. Where was the kudos for his team? Ange, along with club president George Vasilopoulos, was preparing to get on a plane to Brazil for the World Club Championship draw yet all he had read in the papers during the week was news of Carlton's beer garden at Olympic Park.

Well, yes. Carlton, with a little help from their fans, had dreamed up an innovative tactic in an effort to draw some punters to the game. The media thought it was a novel idea, and ran the story. If South Melbourne's marketing department came up with a novel idea we're sure the media would run with that as well.

Competition for media space is at an all-time premium. But the NSL season at least kicks off after the major football codes have completed their finals, and before the domestic cricket season is in full swing. The domestic golf and tennis circuits haven't begun so if ever there is a chance for some space it is in the opening weeks of the season.

Unfortunately the Melbourne-based clubs don't understand this.

Well, not all of the time. Carlton tried something a bit radical and held their shirt presentation night after their opening round clash in Auckland. In typical 'corporate' fashion, the venue was the Nike Superstore in the heart of the CBD, on a Tuesday night with all and sundry invited. The response wasn't overwhelming but certainly respectable and those that attended had no trouble meeting Al l the players and the youth squads as well. In short, a fine effort. Then, for their first home game they introduce something else out of left field – a beer garden behind the northern (Swan St) goal.

As it turned out, it was a balmy night around 25+ degrees and the beer garden was a success. Who knows, it may have pissed down all night and Carlton would have looked bloody silly. As it almost did at Bob Jane Stadium on the Sunday afternoon. After steady rain for most of the day, fans were offered the opportunity to watch the best team in the country on concrete terracing in the rain, or sit at home and watch it live on the ABC.

The official attendance figure of 6,917 was respectable, but not earth shattering. It was certainly better than Carlton's official figure of 4,105, but there were mitigating circumstances with both fixtures and crowds should improve as the quality of football gets better. When that occurs, the teams will more than likely receive increased kudos. As for the clubs – that is another matter entirely.

When Ange fired his broadside at the media we had to ask ourselves what South Melbourne have ever really done for the media. To bleat about the lack of coverage given to their international excursions is a bit rich. The club media releases regarding the World Club Championship consistently contained erroneous and misleading information about the tournament and its participants, while their media releases relating to the Oceania Club Championship bordered on the farcical.

(Incidentally, if you understood Greek, you could actually listen to the OCC final live on radio station 3XY in Melbourne, due to one of their reporters commentating via a mobile phone. We kid you not.)

A couple of months back Carlton went on a pre-season tour of China. They chose to take a couple of journalists with them, ensuring they got media coverage back home. Okay, so they didn't get anywhere near as much as they'd hoped. That isn't the fault of the journo, he can only submit what he writes. He has no say over whether it's printed. Some overseas clubs understand that and don't wine and dine the journos, they wine and dine their bosses.

But in South Melbourne's case, we at SU find it quite astonishing that the club chose not to take at least one recognised journalist to Fiji. We also find it astonishing that Soccer Australia chose not to keep the media fully involved of developments in Fiji. It would be churlish to suggest the situation may have been different had a Sydney club been involved, but when it comes to self-promotion there is little doubt that South Melbourne are well down the pecking order. And when it comes to promotion of Melbourne clubs in general, they are also well down the order, an extraordinary state of affairs when one considers that Melbourne has produced five grand final winners and four runners-up in the past decade.

With so much success you would think they would have marketing people ringing them daily trying to climb aboard the bandwagon. Unfortunately, the club's marketing manager, Georgia Loupos, resigned just prior to the OCC, leaving an information vacuum which proved impossible to fill. So, in short, the coach attacks the media for not giving his team the publicity it deserves, while the club have been without a full-time marketing manager for six weeks.

Since completing back-to-back national championships and taking out the inaugural Oceania Club Championship, the club has signed two new players. The new arrivals, Magnacca and Alagich, are fine players and certainly good long-term purchases but not likely to displace any incumbents. Elsewhere in the league it was mayhem with most clubs eager for at least one high profile recruit (Vidmar, Seal, Wehrman, Slater etc).

Yes, South Melbourne are a TEAM, and they can say they are prudent looking for the right player, but there was no hint of Souths hunting for anyone, virtually rewarding the current squad for their work with a trip to Brazil. Honourable, but dangerous business practice.

This will be the longest ever NSL regular season. Add the trips to Fiji and Brazil, and finals, and South Melbourne's season approaches 45 odd games. If South go to Brazil with their current squad they should be competitive but they are also quite inexperienced, and, to be blunt, lightweight in a couple of key areas. With a guaranteed US$750,000 for reaching the World Club Championship, surely it makes sense for the reigning champion to strike fear into the rest of the league by adding a couple of first-team players to the ranks.

Now THAT will get the media, and quite possibly the fans, buzzing.

Ange IS right – The media IS crap

But he's shooting the wrong messenger

First we should set the scene.

The Australian National Soccer League is as vibrant as it has been in years, possibly ever. Average and aggregate attendances are up, new clubs have brought fresh ideas, and as soon as the governing body has the guts to put an axe through the bottom third of the league we should have a product approaching something the corporate world, and quality journalists, will flock to.

Angie Postecoglou reckons the press don't give his team enough credit. Some of 'em probably couldn't spell it. We've already had a bitch about the club so it's time for us to look in the mirror and see whether we like what we see.

Before we go any further we have to declare an interest.
The editor of SU, Kevin Christopher, last season provided Vic Premier League match reports (at his own expense) for ABSW and will be providing Inside Soccer with match reports for all Carlton home games this season. And quite possibly the odd Knights or Souths game depending on the availability of the other Melbourne based correspondents.
In return, we receive an ongoing ad for our publication 'The Unofficial History of the NSL' (okay, got that plug out of the way early).

Ange was probably directing his laser-guided missiles at the mainstream (Murdoch, Fairfax) outlets, but he may as well have been chucking scatter bombs.
The level of coverage re the Oceania Club Cup in the Sydney-based ABSW & IS bordered on dismissive. ABSW plastered their front page with bold headlines but rewriting club press releases is hardly reporting the event. The lowlight was the match report on Souths 10-0 win over Konica. It totalled 54 words.

But that was awesome coverage compared to Inside Soccer, whose obsession with all things Parramatta meant South's achievement was relegated to page 17. Oh, and before you get too excited, it was half a page. One can only hope they don't use the excuse that the papers are Sydney-based.

The dailies was where Ange was directing most of his verbal spittle, however, and while Carlton have enjoyed a honeymoon (of sorts) with the Melbourne media, that is more a result of the Blues PR machine working overtime on them while South have tended to be a little more introspective about their own achievements.

The ante has been raised further this season with Carlton introducing a policy of taking a different member of the media on away trips with the team. Yes, the Blues have a policy of taking journos on trips with them. It hardly seems likely in Australian club sport let alone Australian club soccer, but Carlton must be congratulated on their initiative.

Again, we have an interest to declare.
The Editor of SU has been the lucky beneficiary of Carlton's policy already this season – the 4-0 win at Marconi.
Lucky, eh? A 4-0 win providing a most enjoyable return journey!

But on the serious side – it was a fascinating experience to see close-up the prepartion that goes into a professional sporting club. Assembling at Tullamarine by 8am Sunday morning and landing back in Melbourne around midnight is hardly the glamorous lifestyle imagined by the average fan, and only now do I, for one, appreciate what the Gippsland Falcons must go through ten or twelve times a year.

Carlton's motives have been questioned by some, but one wonders whether South Melbourne, for example, may have been better off considering taking similar action, particularly when it comes to their recent trip to Fiji.

The reason South's achievements got such little coverage is because there were no journalists there. With the tournament taking place in the week leading up to the AFL and NRL grand finals, there was always going to be bugger all space available in the papers, and the likelihood of any sports editors sending their soccer reporters to Fiji for a week was minimal.
The solution? Add between 1-3% to your budget and take a recognised journalist with you, instructing him to type and day and fax all night. And if he has a digital camera and e-mail facilities (yes, the Fiji FA has an e-mail address) then you are suddenly putting your name in front of the noses of every sports [illegible] in Australia, if not the world.
No, it was obviously all too hard – or expensive.

Turning our attention back to the weeklies, there is certainly a battle going on between A&BSW and Inside Soccer with the market not exactly ready for two weekly papers yet. So unless interest in the league takes off over the next twelve months we may have yet another casualty on our hands. Unfortunately, it may not be a case of 'survival of the strongest', but rather a case of 'survival of the least weakest'.

Hey, stop giggling up the back when we mention A&BSW! This is serious. Well, it used to be. And you used to be fairly sure what you getting, but not any longer. As one SU subscriber of long standing put it: "Another easter egg - gaudy on the outside and hollow within. The chocolate seems to be missing as well."

Bruce Campbell gave birth to Inside Soccer a year or two ago but once it was up and running it soon changed hands and is currently run by John Vrtanic with Aidan Ormond as editor. Aidan was previously with Australian & British Soccer Weekly but 'did a Dave Mitchell' and jumped from a dilapidated dinghy to the newest lifeboat. He promptly invited interested crew members to follow him - including one Greg Blake, currently mixing a broadcasting stint at C7 Sports with the Melbourne advertising gig for Inside Soccer.

The response was sufficient to send ABSW's resources below an acceptable level, resulting in some of the worst writing on Oz soccer's inglorious publishing history. As a fanzine we probably have no right to point the finger, but as individual fans I believe it is time we at least called a spade a bloody shovel. Check this from a pre-season 'feature' match report on page 3 of a recent ABSW:

"He picked the ball up from around 40 metres out and ran around the midfield of Olympic. He then continued his run at the defence, who backed off and finally it was left to Jim Kourtis to come home but he was chipped and the ball ended up in the back of the net".

Left to Jim Kourtis to come home? From where? The pub? There is a serious side to this though. How many kids out there use ABSW and their ilk for their casual reading. And what influence is this literary horror having on their susceptible minds. And what are their end of year exam results?

Naturally, when you've already gone through the bottom of the barrel and you still need more material to fill the pages (because nobody wants to advertise with you) then there is always internet chat sites. Unfortunately very few of the facts/ideas get checked out so they finish up as a mish/mash of comment spread throughout various columns.

So, a word or warning. Don't believe everything you read, or accept those quotes as accurate. It just may have come from the brother of the bloke that my sister used to go out with who ran into the bloke that used to go to school with...

Support South Melbourne (for once!)

Well, it IS finally official. South Melbourne WILL be playing Manchester United, at the Maracana. And Vasco da Gama. Oh, and Necaxa. Pinch us, please. And pinch South Melbourne while you're at it...

And if you REALLY want to help you can spread the word about the petition mentioned on page 4. Yes, we agree. South's achievements and pending tour of Rio's beaches SHOULD get more press coverage. And far more commercial television coverage than it is likely to get. Yes, we reckon you should get in contact with Peter Kartsidimas and request copies of the petition which you will then fill with different people's signatures.

Peter can be contacted via:
South Melbourne Supporters Group
P O BOX 2055
Lygon Street North
Victoria 3057

Now let's see... One hundred *percent of three point eight million dollars is....*

One other point about South Melbourne. Regular readers would be aware that we attempt to provide line-ups of all Oz international matches and important domestic clashes such as finals. As far as the Oceania Club Championship is concerned, well, as much as we would have loved to continue that tradition we simply were unable to obtain the match details other than the scorers. We have contacted a variety of people at South Melbourne, Oceania and even the Fijian FA. So far we have come up with zilch.

Hopefully the situation will be rectified in the immediate future and we can provide the Oz soccer public with the sort of details that Souths no doubt wanted plastered throughout the mainstream media. Hmm, perhaps we should have included this bit on the next page...

At least they went out as winners!

Adelaide Sharks may have left the National Soccer League in semi-disgrace but they can at least claim to have gone out as winners. Their final fixture was indeed a fine finale, a 2-1 win over Elizabeth City at Hindmarsh in the final of the South Australia Federation Cup.
The attendance of around two thousand was perhaps an indication that most of the diehards had just about had enough as well...

For the record, the scorers in the come from behind victory were Harry Skoumbros and John Spatharos while the team line-up was:
Bill Petropoulos, George Tsonis, Peter Apostopoulos, Joe Rugan, Paul Hoey, Harry Skoumbros, Stefanos Naipantidis, Paul Tsoukalas (Ayrton Andreoli 45), Nick Tsoukalas, John Spatharos, Steve Georgiou (Vass Daskalos 32)

Get the Book out!

Red Card to Soccer Australia, International Management Group (IMG) and the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) over their collective handling of the Oz v Brazil two match series in November. Rumours had been rife for months that the CBF were planning to send the core of their Olympic squad so why SocAus sent Frank Farina to Europe to plead with the Eurocrats to come home only they could tell you. But it must have made Frank feel pretty bloody stupid when the CBF announced that, yes, they will.

Yellow card to the, ahem, marketing department at South Melbourne. Following their World Club Cup gaffes comes the latest copy of 'In Blue & White', the club's newsletter.
Under the banner "South's new chief sets his sights on sponsorship boosts", comes a nice piece about how the club's new general manager, Damien Phillips, has announced his aim of "a concerted marketing and business development push into the new millenium". He would not have been pleased that the accompanying photograph had the caption Damian Phillips.
Hmm, we haven't been this confused since H.Karl turned up at Somers St.

Yellow card to Soccer Australia for their failure to deliver the appropriate media accreditation in time for the opening round of the NSL. This led to the unbelievable situation (at more than one ground) where anyone who claimed to be a journalist was let in for nix. Sorry we couldn't warn you all about it earlier!

Yellow card to Melbourne Knights for ground announcements during play. It's bad enough having "Would the owner of car registration no.... please get his car out of the way blah blah", but to have ads for the upcoming "Match of the Century – Croatia v Yugoslavia" is right out of order. But, as page four of the round one match programme said, in a 'statement' from the new board of directors: "*The important thing to remember is that if the Knights attracted 10,000 Croats to each home game, no one in the Australian Soccer fraternity would be able to say anything.*" Er, okay then.

Yellow card to Carlton (and the Melbourne Knights) for promoting their round 4 clash as some sort of pseudo-Glasgow derby. Ex-Ranger Dave McPherson's presence at Carlton prompted the Blues into a photo opportunity with Ivan Kelic in the Knights' Celtic-style away strip, which is harmless enough but for Carlton to promote the match as an 'Auld Firm' fixture is definitely overstepping the mark. For a start, 'Auld Firm' relates to England v Scotland, not Rangers v Celtic (we assume they mean 'Old Firm'). But why promote the local product as an imitation of one of the worst examples of bigotry in modern day football? Er, no thanks.
Wonder how Carlton's catholic fans felt about it all?

Yellow Card to those responsible for the Milan Ivanovic banner/run-through before his final match. Great idea, pity about the games total. While the banner read 301, the real figure of 300 may have generated an even greater response. On the cringe-o-meter it rated quite highly.

Yellow Card to Mark Shield for dishing out 4 reds and 27 yellows in the opening five rounds. We're not qualified refs, so we won't start an argument...

Okay, that's enough of the relatively insignificant red and yellows. It's time to turn the page and reach for the black in typically SU fashion....

Get the Book out! – Special **Black Card** Edition

Having turned the oxy torch on the media in the previous pages we simply must get a fresh supply of oxy acetylene for that, er, doyen of gossip, John 'Good Oil' Economos.

Yep, the man who once referred to Andy Harper as "*the hairless but far from brainless striker*" but at least went on to say "*did such an enormous and absolutely fabulous job for SBS in the last World Cup Finals in France*"
And Andy would be well stoked after reading "*powerful striker spearheaded the Breakers into battle with his unquestioned intelligence, vision and unyielding tenacity*."

But enough of this frivolity. We really need to stop play and extract the notebook after a series of bizarre pieces in ABSW recently. The first went along the lines of

"Adelaide City (or Force as we have been informed they are named this season, and as to why we still don't know), presumptuously, and certainly most arrogantly rifled out a press release last Friday that its team was 'on their way to Canberra to blast the Cosmos out of the Galaxy'.

Two points, John. First, there is nothing arrogant about saying you will win well this week. Secondly, if you want to know why they're called the Force, ring them and ask them. We're sure they'll quite happily tell you why. Better still, they may even send you a copy of the press release dated August 25, 1999, entitled 'It's the Force we had to have'. It's a full page John. Lots of info. Or have they still got a limit on the number of STD calls made from the office?

One other tip, John. Drop the obsession with adjectives. Yes, Ange Postecoglou has been young, quietly spoken and studious for about twelve months now, so there's no need to refer to him as "super young", "extremely quietly spoken", and "the phlegmatic young coach". Throw in 'his very young age (33)' and you have a round-up of the piece on October 5.
A couple of weeks earlier he felt obliged to describe new SocAus commissioner Cheryl Bart as "*The vivacious blonde 'Law-Woman'*", "*petite and vivacious*" (in case you missed the vivacious bit the first time) and "*no nonsense*". After advising the ABSW readership of how she "greatly distracted the attention of attending journos at the (Star City Casino) function" he claimed that after finding her bearings in the world of OZ soccer politics, she will be soon laying down the law.
All sounds great John. But perhaps you could have asked her for an extended comment rather than just describing how wonderful she looked.

So, without trying to be bitchy about this it may be time to examine the sort of stuff young impressionable minds are digesting. And it's not just just JE but his subbies as well…

(Warning. The grammatical errors you are about to read are real. Normally when dealing with poor spelling and/or grammar the abbreviation 'sic' is inserted into the text alongside the mistake. We have avoided doing so on this occasion in an effort to prevent the text from becoming thick with sic.)

Kmcevic is a member of the young breed of new coaches that have crepted into the National soccer League over the past three years
Tony Vidmar, who last week was ABSW's front page headline, indeed proved, (and as pre-empted by ABSW), heroic for his club Rangers
Now "Good Oil" believes that Robson (who this columnist had the utmost honour and pleasure of interviewing 16 years back), could soon and replace Ruud Gullit as Newcastle United manager

Both of these super efficient, as well as being stunners, have been operating the P.R. of Parramatta's Rugby League arm. Now these twin lovelies have been upgraded to move into the soccer side of operations. (When describing two recent appointees to Parramatta Power's Soccer public relations department…)
Hodgson…stipulated that for him to accept the National position, he would demand that he be automatically put in charge of Australia's 2000 Olympic team as well. This was political suicide for Hodgson as Australia, (the Federal Government in fact), had already appointed Raul Blanco to this equally prestigious position. Political suicide for Hodgson, but nevertheless his beliefs were correct. In principle. If one assumes Hodgson's beliefs were correct in principle, which they are, then Raul Blanco should have been already appointed as our next World Cup coach.

All marvellous stuff, we're sure you'll agree. But the piece de resistence was surely the 'tribute' to Cleveland St Boys High School in the August 31 issue. If ever there was a shameless attempt at self-promotion, this was it. To cap it off he even managed to score a photo of himself on the front cover – in colour! John, take another bow.

As for the 'story', it was little more than a long-winded advertisement for a 40th anniversary reunion dinner. The by-line was credited to, get this, The Third Earl of Morobe. Obviously some in joke amongst the Cleveland St lot, but it seems relevant because Johnny Warren went there, and a few other sportsmen including Peter Deacon, and John Economos, who is described thus:

> *A highly respected soccer journalist, Economos stands tall in the world of international soccer as the Chief Writer for the Australian and British Soccer Weekly.*
> *After nearly 20 years as an Accountant, John Economos has a career change and has effected the lives of many international and Australian soccer players.*
> *A friend to the rich and famous, his interviews have been read by the Royal Family, Prime Ministers and Presidents. He is vibrant, exceedingly knowledgable and has a passion for the sport he loves. Soccer owes John Economos a great debt, very few sports could boast a more dedicated individual than the 19 years of loyal service he has given to the soccermedia industry.*

When you finally get to the end of the piece you discover you can buy tickets to this event by faxing John Economos or e-mailing ABSW.

>>>>>> Fast forward to the October 12 edition, and a preview of the dinner >>>>>>

No, not the real dinner! The preliminary dinner, for seven of Clevo's finest, including, of course, Peter Deacon and John Economos (and Johnny Warren who is no doubt feeling quite embarrassed about all this as well). JE is happy to inform the lucky ABSW readers that "*Mr Deacon has meticulously and laboriously blueprinted a monstrous and hopefully most memorable event…*" and generally gives us a re-run of the previous piece, although we do learn that John's forte at school was cricket and Union. Oh, almost forgot. He got his photo in [redacted].

By now you're obviously drooling with anticipation so we should let you know the event is on at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia in Sydney on March 3 next year. Not sure that we'll see you there however…

The following is an article which appears in the October issue of that fab KeeWee fanzine Sitter! (And a post-script which doesn't!)

Some right royal worriez over the Kingz

By Bruce Holloway

This may be an unpopular sentiment in the supposed "new age" of soccer — what with the train waiting at the station and all that — but I'm really concerned about the Kingz.

Not so much their inability to score penalties (though that is a worry), their bottom-of-the-table start to the season (predictable after seeing their bizarre pre-season roadshow carnival), or even the lower than predicted home attendances.

No, it's just the general sense of flakiness that surrounds the Kingz that's giving me a nervous twitch.

I want to like and support this club. I want it to be successful. I want to be writing gleeful commentaries about how we dicked the Aussies, blah blah. But I get the impression everything is being done on the hoof at Albany.

While pre-match fireworks were going off in their opener against Carlton, they were still trying to get clearances for starting players. They prepared for kick-off unaware they could only name three subs on the team sheet. (Jason Batty and Batram Sun belatedly had theirs crossed out.)

These gaffes will have been well documented by the time this issue of Sitter! is out, so I won't dwell on the details except to note this is a club where — at the time of writing — the chairman is doubling as chief executive, and for all intents and purposes, another board member is general manager, the assistant coach appears to be the coach.

The Kingz are touted as our first professionals. Sadly, the reality is it's been amateur night at Albany.

But don't take my word for it. Check out the following statement in the Herald on October 7, which I think showed just how amateurish the Kingz are prepared to be.

Chairman Chris Turner explained the club would have a travelling party of 18 for away games, with the make-up dependent on player-coach Wynton Rufer's decision to play or not.

"We are allowed only three substitutes," Turner said. *"If Wynton decides to play then we will obviously include [assistant coach] Shane Ruler in the party. "Otherwise he might stay home, allowing us to take team manager Albert Murphy. One of the club's management will go to every game."*

Our first professionals? There are pub teams more professional than this. Fancy not planning to take a manager to away matches unless the assistant coach (who is really the coach) wasn't planning on going.

Have we confused the Kingz with the Kings Arms Cosmos?

Would you trust the Rufers to find the ground? Is it just me, or are there others worried this lot are going to make us a laughing stock across the Tasman?

If that wasn't bad enough, in the Evening Post the same day Rufer bagged the Kingz administration for not being professional enough.

He's probably right. But Wynton, don't slag your own club in the press. That's our job. It is anything but professional for the gaffer to point the bone at the staff one match into the season.

The question readers will be asking themselves at this stage is whether it is fair to be criticising the Kingz so early in the piece.

I think so. This is an entity which has been accorded importance second only to internationals in the general scheme of things in New Zealand soccer. This is a club our structures have been bent to accommodate (no summer league etc).

I also worry that we've got a team liberally sprinkled with Chileans and Australians when the whole concept was sold as a pathway for rising New Zealanders to play at a professional level.

Yes, I accept we need experienced imports to beef up the squad.

But after the signing of fringe first-teamers defender David Castillo and striker Aaron Silva (Vives in the Sunday Star-Times) from Chilean club Colo Colo I was alarmed to hear Rufer sell them on the basis of community appeal.

"If we can get the Chilean community involved in supporting the team it will be great."

Well here's an idea, Wynton: "Sign a few more New Zealanders and get us Kiwiz in behind you..."

Overshadowing all this though is my fear we've signed players without any particular game plan in mind. Does anybody out there really think Silva (obscure Chilean striker) is better than Batram Sun (well known star of our former national league)?

Anyway, if you like your soccer with plenty of soap, stay tuned. This could be the weirdest summer yet.

But for all these worries, I must say I enjoyed the first evening at Albany. I liked the general ambience associated with soccer at least having a facade of importance.

I watched from the President's room. It was neat to try consuming soccer in modern-day comfort (even if the beer is horrendously overpriced) and experience the game as an entertainment package.

However, one thing that did annoy me, was the presence of national anthems. Why do they play them? I understand the move is the result of an edict from Australian national league administrators. But that doesn't make the logic any more sound.

These are club matches, not internationals. If the aural strains of nationalistic fervour were confusing for the Aussies playing for the Kingz, or the Kiwis playing for Carlton, consider what the Scotsman, Solomon Islanders and Chileans made of it all while they were standing to attention on the pitch.

Post-script Looking back on this copy, nearly a month after I wrote it, I feel I should temper my criticisms by saying Kingz home matchdays have been a very enjoyable experience, and if anything, the fans have let the club down with their non-attendance (crowds of 10,000, 6,000 and 5000) more than the club has let the fans down.

The Kingz are playing a reasonable brand of football, and are more competitive than I had expected them to be one month into their existence.

Bruce Holloway is editor of Sitter! and is a Kingz season ticket holder.

Club 81 (er, make that Club 82, or is it 83?)

Well, wouldn't you know it. As soon as Club 80 was mooted it was destined to become Club 81 thanks to the Auckland Kings (sorry, Football Kingz), but who would have guessed a flower shop would result in Club 82? But that was the scenario when Parramatta Power were forced to transfer their home game against Melbourne Knights (sheesh, what a crowd puller!) to the cavernous Stadium Australia. One can only assume they won't be back in a hurry, but Stadium Australia does become the 82nd venue to host a NSL game. For those who attended, take a bow.

Chances are those couple of thousand hardy souls won't make it to the 83rd venue, destined to be Jade Stadium, in Christchurch, unless something really weird or another flower show crops up before Round 7. So, all you Keewees out there, here's a chance to get of that single digit and add one to your tally.

Speaking of which we've certainly had some impressive ones thrust in front of us (tallies, not digits!). Unfortunately space precludes us from going into detail but a full leaderboard will be present in next month" ish. Promise!

A Beginners Guide to the History of the Joeys

Yep, another long-winded title with most of the VITAL stuff you need to know.

With the growing success of the World Under 20 Championships it was inevitable that FIFA would lower the bar, as it were. As well as providing the truly gifted young players with a world stageon which to shine, it also provided developing soccer nations with the opportunity to host a major international soccer tournament, to test their administrative skills, and to provide governments with plenty of reasons to improve domestic infrastructure.

Politics also plays a solid hand, and so it was that China were awarded hosting rights for the inaugural event.

1985 – Under 16 World Championships in China

Jul 31	Tianjin	Argentina	1-0	Craig Naven 26
Aug 2	Tianjin	Congo	2-1	Paul Trimboli 19, Stan Thodis 42
Aug 4	Tianjin	West Germany	1-0	Paul Trimboli 12

Final Group B standings: Australia 6 (4-1), West Germany 3 (3-3), Argentina 3 (3-4), Congo 0 (4-10)

Aug 7	Tianjin	Guinea	0-0	

(Guinea won 4-2 on penalties)

On paper, this is the closest an Australian team has come to winning a world title. Guinea lost their semi final on penalties to eventual winner Nigeria, while Oz had already beaten runner-up West Germany in the group phase. Gareth Naven and Craig Foster missed their spotkicks in the ¼ final shoot-out but coaches Vic Dalgleish and Bruce Stowell had proved that our kids were as good as anyones. Paul Trimboli, Craig Naven, David Barrett, George Bounoutsos and George Jolevski were others who went on to carve out significant NSL careers. Notable amongst the Aussies opponents was tournament top scorer Marcel Witeczek a certain Hugo Marsdona, a victim of the 'famous brother' syndrome.

1987 Under 16 World Championships in Canada

Jul 12	Montreal	Saudi Arabia	1-0	Steve Horvat 71
Jul 14	Montreal	France	1-4	Steve Georgakis 72
Jul 17	Montreal	Brazil	1-0	Philip Richardson 74

Final Group C standings: Australia 4 (3-4), France 3 (4-3), Saudi Arabia 3 (2-1), Brazil 2 (0-1)

Jul19	Montreal	Nigeria	0-1	

Another exit at the quarter finel stage but at least this time substitute Christopher Nwosu spared us the agony of extra time and a shootout. Australia had topped the group with Brazil finishing bottom and failing to score a goal, a situation which brought forth gasps from FIFA and tears from Brazil. Amongst the French team which demolished the Oz was future World Cup winner Emmanuel Petit, while Nigeria went on to defeat Italy before losing the final to the USSR on penalties.

1988 Under 16 World Championships in Scotland

Jun 10	Aberdeen	East Germany	0-1	
Jun 12	Aberdeen	Brazil	1-3	Steve Conca
Jun 14	Aberdeen	USA	2-2	Anthony Pangallo 71, Jeffrey Suzor 73

Final Group B standings: East Germany 4 (7-4), Brazil 4 (5-3), USA 3 (5-7), Australia 1 (3-6)

Finshed bottom of a strong group, surprising given the strength of the squad. Schwarzer, Kalac, Popovic, Corica and Ross Aloisi have all gone on to European clubs with varying degrees of success. FIFA's policy of sharing the qualifying places equally was justified when Bahrain met eventual winners Saudi Arabia in an all-Arab semi-final. Police Academy fans may like to note that the Yanks' goalkeeper was Chris Hightower.

in the FIFA Junior World Championships.

So sit back with a tray of mixed drinks as we head 'round the world and back.

1991 Under 17 World Championships in Italy

Aug 18	Carrara	Mexico	4-3	Paul Agostino 5, 28, 29 Alex Kiratzoglou 17
Aug 20	Carrara	Congo	2-0	Aaron Healy 65, Alex Kiratzoglou 74
Aug 22	Carrara	Qatar	0-1	

Final Grp B standings: Australia 4 (6-4), Qatar 3 (1-1), Congo 3 (2-3), Mexico 2 (5-6)

Aug 25	Viareggio	Argentina	1-2	o.g. 78

And it's back to business as usual, with a narrow semi final loss to Argentina. Thankfully our boys ignored the sight of Juan Veron and Marcelo Gallardo coming on as subs when the Argies were 2-0 up, and even managed to reduce the deficit in the last twenty minutes. Paul Agostino remains the only Aussie to score a hat-trick at the junior finals, while teammate Craig Moore would also go on to bigger and better things in the 1993 World Youth Cup.

1993 Under 17 World Championships in Japan

Aug 22	Grp B Nagoya	Argentina	2-2	Sebastian Neghen 8, David Rietevski 27
Aug 24	Grp B Nagoya	Canada	8-0	Jon Carter 5, 12, Paul Bilokapic 48, 55, Nick Boserski 68
Aug 28	Grp B Gifu	Nigeria	0-2	

Final Group B standings: Nigeria 6 (14-0), Australia 3 (7-4), Argentina 3 (7-6), Canada 0 (0-18)

Aug 29	¼ fin Kobe	Ghana	0-1	

More Oz agony as Daniel Addo scored a golden goal 12 minutes into extra-time. The Africans dominated the match, having already smacked four past Mexico and Italy in the group stage. Nigeria became the first two-time winner of the event with Nwankwo Kanu and tournament top scorer Wilson Oruma getting the goals against Australia. Oz 'keeper Paul Lapic was named in the MasterCard all-star team while Hayden Foxe and Andrew McDermott headed off overseas to pursue fame and fortune. Paul Bilokapic, Joe Tricarico and Dragi Nastevski were also on the roster.

1995 Under 17 World Championships in Ecuador

Aug 4	Riobamba	Spain	2-2	Daniel Allsop 15, 73
Aug 6	Riobamba	Nigeria	0-2	
Aug 9	Riobamba	Qatar	3-0	Harry Kewell 41pen, Daniel Allsop 48, 58

Final Group C standings: Nigeria 7 (5-2), Australia 4 (5-4), Spain 4 (4-4), Qatar 1 (1-5)

Aug 13	Porto Viejo	Brazil	1-3	Daniel Allsop 32

Brazil ensured Oz retained their 0% success rate in quarter-finals, although Daniel Allsop picked up the Golden Boot award for tournament top scorer. FIFA offered the use of time-outs for the first time, although winners Ghana didn't bother using them. The squad included a number of 2000 Olympic hopefuls including Brett Emerton, Sebastian Sinozic and Nick Rizzo.

1997 Under 17 World Championships in Egypt

Australia failed to qualify, losing the Oceania final 0-1 to New Zealand on Anzac Day 1997. The Kiwis travelled to Egypt and were clearly out of their depth, losing all three matches and finishing with a goal difference of 0-22. Spain got the lions share with thirteen. Argentina won the Fair Play Award!

New Zealand here we come

Last chance for Les? Well, after witnessing the attempting lynching of Scheinflug following the 1997 Oceania final loss there seems no doubt the same hanging judges will be hovering expectantly should Australia fail to qualify from the group phase.
SU would rather think positively and hope that Les & the Joeys (sorry, LG Joeys!) bring home the trophy! Or at least tales of another gallant quarter-final loss...

1999 Under 17 Qualifiers (play-off)

Aug 14	Canberra	Bahrain	2-1	Joey Di Iorio 18, Mark Byrnes 37
Aug 27	Bahrain	Bahrain	1-0	Louis Brain 44

1999 Joeys tour of South America

Oct 14	Montevideo	Uruguay U-17	1-1	Joey Di Iorio 65
Oct 18	Montevideo	Uruguay U-17	1-2	Jade North 45
Oct 20	Montevideo	Nacional	7-0	Mark Byrnes 18, 41, Joey Di Iorio 19, 35 Scott McDonald 22, Josh Kennedy 58, 60
Oct 23	Santiago	Colo Colo	4-2	Mark Byrnes 4, Scott McDonald 57, 71 Joey Di Iorio 66
Oct 28	Santiago	Univ de Chile	1-2	Lucas Pantelis 78
Nov 1	Buenos Aires	Independiente	1-0	Scott McDonald 70
Nov 4	Buenos Aires	Argentina U-17	3-3	Dylan MacAllister 30, Mark Byrnes 54, Wayne Srhoj 90

1999 Under 17 World Championships in New Zealand

Group A (Auckland)
Nov 10 - New Zealand v United States, Nov 11 - Poland v Uruguay
Nov 13 - New Zealand v Uruguay, Poland v United States
Nov 16 - New Zealand v Poland, United States v Uruguay

Group B (Napier)
Nov 11 - Ghana v Spain, Mexico v Thailand
Nov 13 - Ghana v Mexico, Spain v Thailand
Nov 16 - Ghana v Thailand, Mexico v Spain

Group C (Christchurch)
Nov 12 - Australia v Brazil 2pm, Germany v Mali 4:15pm
Nov 14 - Brazil v Mali 4:30pm, **Australia v Germany 6:45pm**
Nov 17 - Brazil v Germany 4:30pm, **Australia v Mali 6:45pm**

Group D (Dunedin)
Nov 12 - Burkina Faso v Jamaica, Paraguay v Qatar
Nov 14 - Burkina Faso v Qatar, Jamaica v Paraguay
Nov 17 - Burkina Faso v Paraguay, Jamaica v Qatar

Quarterfinals
Nov 20 - (Match 25) Group A winners v Group B runners-up, Auckland
- (Match 26) Group B winners v Group A runners-up, Napier
Nov 21 - (Match 27) Group C winners v Group D runners-up, Christchurch 2pm
- (Match 28) Group D winners v Group C runners-up, Dunedin 4:30pm

Semifinals – Nov 24
Match 25 winners v match 27 winners, Christchurch 5pm
Match 26 winners v match 28 winners, Auckland 7:30pm

Final, third-place playoff – Nov 27 in Auckland

Interview with a Formeroo – Part 2

Greg Stock continues his lengthy one with Max Tolson

GS : Did you get plenty of novelty value as a lad from Australia?
MT : "Yes. The club persevered with me for a couple of weeks and then I was dropped. I played in the reserve team or the 'A' team as they called it and your wages dropped as well. The basic wage in England at that time was 11 and a half pounds. In the first team squad you got 21 pounds and then I think it was another 3 or 4 pounds per win and it was a lot more per week if you were leading whatever division you were in. So at one stage we were leading the league for a third of the season and I was bringing home about 51 pounds. Full board was 5 quid so I was saving a lot of money."

GS : Were you in England by yourself, no family or girlfriend?
MT : "No, by myself. Then Kelly moved on and I suppose he had held my hand long enough. Workington was a bit of a boring place but I wasn't one for the night life and before he left Kelly asked me if I would like to borrow his car. I thought that would be nice so we went for a drive and some of the boys in the team knew a few pubs which closed at eleven. I remember we were single and at eleven a couple of the lads said there's a pub just down the road with a few birds, come on let's go. I know this lane, it's straight, so go go.

So I put my foot down and I'd gone 200 yards down the road and there was a horseshoe bend and I rolled the car and ended up in a ditch. It was the hardest thing I'd ever had to do, was tell Jim Kelly I had rolled his car (laughing). Jimmy moved on back to Blackpool and went into business and was probably glad to get away from me. I must admit I did have thoughts of coming home because we were into the second season. I had a great summer there touring around England and Wales with a couple of boys from the team who were Irish.

I did pre-season training, but nobody got along with the new manager, a man by the name of George Ainslie. He was an alcoholic with a temper. I think the third game I played that season it just wasn't working out. And I suppose to him, he thought I just wasn't trying, but I have never, ever been accused of that.

So he called me in and to this day I don't know whether it was a gee-up but he called me a coward. That might have been okay to the other boys in the team but to say that to an Australian! I stood up and wanted to have my say but I didn't realise that in England he is the boss and it didn't go down too well, costing me a weeks wages. But I didn't let it finish there. I sought a meeting during the week and got it out of my system, but that again cost me more money and the outcome to all of that was I was dropped.

Not long after that he left, the directors had enough of him and we got a new guy. Very young, knew what he wanted and he saw the excess baggage we had about the place. Not excess players but some of the guys just hanging on and he changed things around and I got a start in midfield. We were winning a few games and I was getting good press. But I met a girl there and got engaged and I thought about doing the good old Australian thing, a block of land and a house. I'd been getting good press, enough to enhance a contract back home so I told them I was leaving about halfway through the season."

GS : Did they say not to go?
MT : "Yes they did. We played a cup match against one of the second division teams at night. I scored a goal and this wasn't long before Ainslie left and he called me into the office. I did have an excellent game and you do pretty well when you beat a second division team in the FA Cup, but they put in an offer for me. Looking back to this day I should have gone. I think the club was Bury which wasn't too far from Workington."

GS : Did you think seriously about it at the time?
MT "I did, but I was on my own and there was nobody to turn to for advice. Looking back I should have rung Kelly and spoke with him and gone. I had it in my contract that there was no transfer fee so I could have gone on to them and they wanted me as a midfielder. I thought it over but I decided at my stage of life to go back and get a good contract with South Coast United and get stuck into work, get a block of land and settle down."

GS . So you did, and was there any problem with leaving Workington?
MT "No I had it in my contract that I had a free transfer to wherever and they hadn't paid anything for me anyway. There was a clause in my contract that I could ask for a sign-out fee if and when I did resign with them but it never got to that stage. Workington relied on bringing young players up and selling them but we were successful there for a while."

GS . What was the quality of the third division football you were playing?
MT "At that time the division was higher than any division out here. Well above it. Okay, you could compete for a couple of games against their clubs but it would have been impossible for an Australian club of that era to compete for a whole season. You just couldn't do it, but they may do well for a couple of games."

GS : Did you run into any other Australians over there at that time?
MT "No, it wasn't such a big thing in those days. Johnny Warren was there but I really don't know a lot about who he played for but he was a couple of years older than me and back to Australia by the time. Ray Baartz was there, I think he had the world at his feet there but decided it just wasn't what he wanted. Baartzy was a beautiful man and a great player. Rasic doesn't harp on about this too much but he did try to get across that if Ray Baartz was in our World Cup squad who knows what might have happened?"

GS - Jumping forward a little to 1974. The World Cup team, was it like a family?
MT "Yes, that is true. People shouldn't get the picture that it was a happy family one hundred percent of the time."

GS No family ever is.
MT "You try to be but you're talking twenty-two different personalities and the personality of Rasic which was probably stronger than twenty-two people (laughing). I don't think enough people understood Rasic enough to understand just what he did achieve."

GS . Rasic was the coach that gave you your first start as a Socceroo in 1971 but by the end of the World Cup qualifiers of 1973 you were out of favour and guys like Abonyi and Alston had succeeded you on the forward line.
MT "Yeah, why not. Everyone in our squad knew the deal meaning you knew who was going to be selected for a majority of the matches before yourself or you knew you weren't going to be selected before."

GS So when you went to Germany in 1974, you were well aware you were going as a shadow forward for Campbell, Alston and Abonyi.
MT "I understood that after a while, probably the first few matches. I was picked for my first match in Brisbane against Israel and scored. I had a pretty good game and scored and it was 1 all. We should have won but looking back if he had played Alston up front and without the problem at the back with Bobby Hogg and Hogg had have played I may not have got a start upfront. But I was there and Rasic picked me for certain games and reserve for certain games. Definitely a lot as a reserve (laughing) but that's okay. If you're sensible enough and saw where he was coming from you learnt to accept it was the result that he wanted."

GS : Contributing to a team effort.
MT "That's not to say I wanted Alston or Abonyi off so I could get on. I still want to play but okay the results come first."

GS - During the World Cup Qualifiers of 1973 you were used off the bench a bit and did find the net a few times. Was that a trick Rasic used knowing your style as a hard running physical centre forward?
MT "I suppose when he thought it was needed. I used to joke I had more skill than most but he'd laugh and say 'Sure Sure Sure' (laughing). But if it wasn't for him I wouldn't have gone (to Germany) as I caught the mumps from my son a matter of weeks before we went away. But Rasic was a very loyal person and I don't think enough people understood that including the powers that be at the ASF. To this day they should still be considering Rasic.

Okay if he doesn't achieve anything slit his throat, kick him out, drop him, whatever you like but this man gave them something they never dreamed of. To this day they (the ASF) are screwing up. I went to a function not so long ago at one of the hotels in Sydney where they inducted us into the Hall of Fame and I would have loved to have taken that microphone and said to them 'Please consider him. You're looking in the wrong direction. You're looking at Roy Hodgson and Terry Venables, just look ten metres away there he is. He's your answer to what you want. Still no guarantees he would do it, but what better man?'"

GS Have you done much coaching yourself?
MT Just my son's team when he was a lad.

GS Something that just didn't appeal to you?
MT "It interested me, but you have to put up with directors and officials. They know better don't they? I wasn't really interested hanging around with one or two clubs for a year and then moving on. I couldn't see a life in it. I wanted to get on with life and get where I am now. Mind you, I'm still digging holes (laughing)."

GS Your fellow South Coast teammates like Adrian Alston, Casey Dellbuin and Philip Carr have all had coaching careers.
MT "I always wanted to work for myself. I never ever wanted to work for anybody else, I just do my own thing and retire early. I saw the better side of life and I suppose the difference is you borrow a whole lot of money and try and pay it back as quick as you can without going broke in the mean time. We'd all like that."

GS It looks like your running a very successful operation up here at Budgewoi.
MT "It's successful but there is still a mortgage to pay."

GS Do you keep in touch with the '74 guys?
MT "It's good when the ASF has something on because we all get together. Everyone has good intentions of getting together but it just doesn't happen."

GS - The Hall of Fame launch last year in Sydney would have been a great opportunity for you all to get together again.
MT "It was great to see guys like Dr Brian Corrigan again was good. It was great fun and should be done more often."

With another reunion taking place in Sydney just recently Tolson again joined in with the famous names from the '74 side for more reminiscing.

Names like Warren Baartz, Wallace Schaefer, Reilly and of course one of the South Coast's greatest ever footballing products Max Tolson.

TIME HAS RUN OUT

Steve Pitman puts the traditional clubs under the microscope

"They've done everything contrary to what is needed to transform the game. They can't change and really they don't want to. I know they won't do it"

These are the words of Nick Tana, co-owner of Perth Glory, in goading Adelaide City and Adelaide Sharks through the press in February of this year. He didn't spell it out, but he could equally have been goading the rest of the "traditional" (or "ethnic") NSL clubs. You've got to hand it to Tana - not only has he done what was thought by the cynics to be impossible - created a new, broad-based, mass supported club, but he has also travelled the country like some sort of Billy Graham crusading for other clubs to follow his lead.

Now that Glory's success has been duplicated on the east coast by Northern Spirit, the volume control knob on Tana's message has been turned up so high that the ears of the traditional clubs are bleeding. In May, South Melbourne's president, George Vasilopoulos, admitted "Who, they, Glory and Spirit, get more crowds they get more publicity, bigger money, more sponsors and sooner or later they will attract the top players and coaches and win championships."

To adapt a phrase from Ruud Gullit, there is no doubt that all the sexy football off the field lately has been played by Glory and Spirit as they have embraced a broad supporter base. So how are the traditional clubs responding to this sexy behaviour? Are they dusting off the cobwebs to their lingerie drawers and preparing to do some serious dressing up? Well, there has been no shortage of clues recently. Here is a summary.

Putting Out: Adelaide City (now Adelaide Force)

Of all the traditional clubs, Adelaide City seems the most genuine and committed about changing its image and broadening its support. Having conducted market research, the club was out of the blocks even before the last NSL season ended, announcing that it would switch its matches to Friday nights (from Sunday afternoons), and that it would be looking to attract 10,000 supporters to its first game of the next season. It then appointed a new Chief Executive, Ned Coten, a former Perth Wildcats basketball player.

It was soon obvious that Coten had been drinking heavily in Perth from the trough of Tana, for to listen to Coten's announcements was to hear Tana's words. Coten said the club would focus on making its matches into entertainment events. "The match is one element of an entertainment package. Our games will have three ingredients: noise, colour and movement." Coten also said his Board had given him "strong direction to take the club to the next level. They see these changes (in broadening the club's appeal) as critical in achieving that." By August, the club's name had been changed to the very Glory-esque Adelaide Force, its logo had been altered, and an announcement made that the old black and white home strip so reminiscent of Juventus of Italy would be made over (with blue and orange added).

If any club deserves to be successful in an attempt to re-invent itself, this would seem to be the one, provided that its words are translated into actions. Furthermore, the demise of the Adelaide Sharks has now left the Force to tap the Adelaide market alone, a heaven sent opportunity. We should wish them luck, while hoping that their attempt to win the hearts and minds of a wider audience isn't sunk as soon as the first chants of "Yoo-ay, Yoo-ay," escape from the throats of some of the diehards in the stands.

Faking it: Marconi-Fairfield

Hopes were high for a genuine cultural change at this club when it announced in May that it [illegible] appointed marketing consultants to look into ways of increasing its team's attendances, and that it was prepared to spend up to $500,000 on a marketing campaign. The club, a founding member of the NSL, had been severely embarrassed by Sydney neighbour Northern Spirit achieving in its first season roughly three times Marconi's attendances. Worse still was the fact that Spirit's success had largely been engineered by Remo Nogarotto, a former Marconi heavyweight who had seen the shortcomings of the club and moved on.

But five months later, what did we get? "Nothing of substance" is the answer. We got a flashy media launch, a promised advertising campaign, a slight change of stop, a logo which still bears the white, green and red of Italy and a name change to the Marconi Stallions. Not the Fairfield Stallions mind you, nor the West Sydney Stallions. No, the Marconi Stallions. The message is: "Sure, we want to you football people of non Italian descent to come to our games, but while you are parting with your admission fee and looking for something you can identify with, we want you to know that we are Italian, that we are not going to forget it, and that we intend to make sure you don't either." They might just as well have called themselves the Italian Stallions and launched an advertising campaign featuring Sylvester Stallone. Strength, why didn't they just save the money if they weren't serious about it in the first place?

Laying back and thinking of Greece: South Melbourne and Sydney Olympic

Nothing much happening here. South Melbourne, sated by back-to-back NSL Premierships and looking forward to participation in the World Club Championships, appears to have been focusing on "business as usual" rather than reshaping itself. It has appointed a new General Manager, worked on improving its sponsorship base and made the usual [illegible] about marketing itself to new supporters and increasing its attendances to average 10,000, but really there's nothing significant to convince us that we haven't heard it all before. South Melbourne will remain "Hellas" to its fans and it's easy to suspect the club is comfortable with that. Which makes it all the more mysterious to hear Club President Vasilopoulos lamenting that the club isn't getting a leg up from the Melbourne press over its upcoming involvement in the World Club Championships. Wake up, George! The club doesn't seriously want to be relevant to the broader population of Melbourne. The press does.

Sydney Olympic? Well, having been "saved" from a Rene Rivkin takeover attempt by the so-called Five White (read: Greek) Knights a few years ago, the club seems to have embarked upon an unaccustomed stability drive, with a long-term focus on achieving results on the field. If it's doing anything off the field to broaden its support base, it isn't telling anyone. It seems happy to be Sydney's Greek club and to draw its support accordingly. It is fiddling while Sydney [illegible]

Reaching for the chastity belt: Sydney United

Having fought a protracted and partially successful battle with David Hill to retain its Croatian-flavoured logo, this club was nevertheless dragged kicking and screaming a few seasons ago from its Croatian enclave at Edensor Park to Parramatta Stadium in an attempt to broaden its support base and draw something resembling a crowd.

The attempt was never seriously embraced by anyone: the club relocated to Edensor Park last season, and crowds dwindled despite the on-field success of its team.

Now the forces of reaction have regained the ascendancy. The club ensured its financial survival last season only by putting itself into the hands of an administrator and passing the hat around the Croatian community (surely a sign that it was loved by no-one else), and probably only survived the off-season axe of Soccer Australia because its team made the Grand Final. Nevertheless, by mid-May, the club's new President (and chief benefactor) Marko Franovic was enthralling the media with his vision for the future. "If anything, I have a plan that is too big. I talked with Stefan Kamasz (NSL general manager) yesterday and I think I scared him off," Franovic told the Sydney press.

It seems that Kamasz is not the only person he scared off. A few months later, coach David Mitchell, assistant coach Lawrie McKinna and almost the entire team which contested the Grand Final for Sydney United had fled to Parramatta Power (a new club with a broad-based vision). And the cunning "plan" outlined by Franovic to Soccer Australia is probably pretty well signposted by one of the few players who have stayed loyal to United. Veismir Kupresak, Kupresak told the soccer press in September "I'll be honest with you: the club is Croatian and when the club changed its name and logo to Sydney United many said this is not Sydney Croatia any more ... was not a good idea to change the name. The Croatian community is small, that is why we don't get the crowds like Spirit and Glory."

That is also why it is impossible to see the club surviving as an NSL entity past this season.

Wrestling with Inhibitions: Melbourne Knights

We've just about heard it all from the Knights. Noises about broadening the support base were heard from general manager Damian Phillips in April, along with suggestions of moving the club's matches from Somers Street to Olympic Park or even Docklands Stadium, and of forging links with Manchester United, Arsenal, West Ham United or Glasgow Celtic. Phillips must have upset someone, because by mid-May he had joined the ranks of the unemployed, saying that the club had told him it could not afford to keep him on (despite receiving $1.3 million for the on-sale of Mark Viduka). Hmmm.

Little else was heard from the Knights until late August, when it was announced that the entire Board of the club had been replaced by a new, younger Board which was saying ... well, much the same things as the old Board, really. The new Board was going to broaden the club's support base, advertise and market the club, appeal to the soccer fans of the western suburbs of Melbourne, seek new sponsors and put more bums on seats. Newly appointed marketing manager Barry Horsfall (formerly of the wildly successful marketing team at South Melbourne) spoke of the new Board's intention to "move away from the perception that the club is solely for the Croatian community".

Well, how better to move away from this perception than to remain at Somers Street and retain the Croatian colours of red, white and blue in the team's home strip? Am I alone in wondering whether the only difference between the old board and the new one is its average age, and the most striking similarity is a fundamental unwillingness to really bite the bullet and change anything? What's really going on here? Is the club trying to play sexy football and attract supporters from beyond the Croatian community, or is it just hopelessly confused about whether to play the vamp or the virgin?

Terminal virginals: Adelaide Sharks

One club which never seemed confused about which role it was playing (until it was too late) was the Adelaide Sharks, and this article would not be complete without a mention of their [illegible]

Good grief! What a tortured tale of bumbling incompetence and deceit we've had here. The club's tortured downfall over the last year seems to have centred around the erratic behaviour of its majority owner/sponsor/shareholder/director (depending upon which version was in vogue in any given week), Con Makris. But the real, longer term reason for its demise surely lies in its inability to appeal to any football demographic other than the Adelaide Greek community. When even this group drifted away from the club it became an embarrassment to South Australian soccer and to its own proud past.

The Adelaide Sharks are nothing if not the writing on the wall for the traditional clubs. They will avert their eyes at their peril.

Footnote: I wish to acknowledge the unintended roles played by *Inside Soccer*, *The Advertiser*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and various other publications in helping me to write this dross.

Mmm, I heard it on the gripe vine.

SU ran into a (sort of) well-known soccer writer and author recently and we got chin-wagging about the difficulty SocAus has in attracting and maintaining major sponsorships.

Our colleague reckons he pitched a story idea to the Qantas in flight magazine for Australia Brazil. "Great idea," said the Q-man. "But another airline is the sponsor of the Socceroos. We can't really run it." No worries, our coll thought. So he called Ansett and threw the same idea. "Hmm..." said the A-man. "Really? In November? It sounds sort of interesting but we're running a story on Badminton that month."

And the winners were:

Yep, something else that got squeezed out last month. And there are some familiar names amongst this lot as well so it remains relevant.

1999 Victorian Premier League Player of the Year award
Leading Votes: George Jolveski, Melbourne Raiders; 24 Peter Bordignon (Fawkner Blues), 23 Zoran Markovski (Green Gully Cavaliers), 22 Warren Spink (Preston Lions)

Other Awards
Bill Fleming Medal (Press Award for PoY)
Zlatko Mihajlovic (Springvale White Eagles and SU42 cover star)
U-21 Player of the Year Roddy Vargas (Port Melbourne Sharks)
Coach of the Year Ian Dobson (Green Gully Cavaliers)
Leading Goalscorer Peter Kakos (Port Melbourne Sharks, 23 goals
Referee of the Year Gerry Connolly
Goalkeeper of the Year Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions)
Weinstein Medal (Junior Player of the Year) Scott McDonald (Cranbourne & VIS
Healthy Club Award - Melbourne Raiders
"Eat Well Live Well" Women's Premier League POY Sarah Fitzgerald (Keilor Park)
"Eat Well Live Well" Women's Premier League Youth POY Regina Wood (Essendon)

May the Force be with you

From Phil Woodley

"So it's 'The Force', and the black and white of old is to have blue and orange added."

The announcement made by Ned Colen CEO of hopefully a new Force in South Aussie soccer? (Oops, sorry Football as it's Force F.C. and not too late I add, why should we apologise for the fact we are the world game.)

It's taken years and the introduction of new broad based teams into the NSL/ 'A' league/ Ericsson Cup (or whatever) to finally open the eyes of Adelaide Juventus (nee Zebras/ nee Slickers/ nee City) that all fans should be welcomed. But, will a new name and colours bring in the long-stay-away fans?

On the first positive, The Force (F.C.) are to play their home games on Friday nights which is better for all fans, as kids can stay out later with no school next day. Adults can leave work and go for a drink and a game of football to unwind at the end of the week. Also businesses can take clients to a game in the corporate boxes after the days work has been completed – GOOD MOVE!

But whether a name change and an addition of two colours will be enough to bring in fans from the Northern and Southern suburbs, which are largely of British stock and the largest immigrant population remains to be seen. The club is stepping up its visibility by going out to local clubs in their areas and doing shopping centre 'meet and greets'.

Also a GOOD MOVE. All U.K. supporters clubs are to be sent invitations to join the 'Fan Force' and congregate behind the Church end goal to help to create some proper football-style atmosphere, singing and chanting!!

So eager are the Force to get in the U.K supporters that a $100 season ticket with a free beer at each game is to be offered to them (that's $6.25 a game and a free beer) and with the Church end to stock U.K. ales it's an even greater incentive. So if that doesn't get them nothing short of rounding them up and dragging them down to Hindmarsh will.

Perhaps this is all too late, as since 1977 Adelaide Juventus have always been Italian (obviously). But in the last 2 or 3 seasons crowds have dwindled and the Perth Glory and Northern Spirit-type clubs have shown they have the right approach. A non-ethnic team was in line to take the place of the Sharks/nee Southern Stars/nee Giants/nee West Adelaide/nee Hellas (and still Hellenic Sports Club).

But with no coach or players in mind, training ground or official club badge, mascot or playing strips, it was a dead duck before it even applied for a licence. And with a man in charge who was part of the State Bank collapse perhaps the authorities were right to not let them in.

But worst of all, to call it United reeks of ethnicity – Pommie ethnicity. All those many fans who say " I won't go to see an NSL game as it is all full of wogs" obviously want it all full of Poms. You can't cry "ethnic" and then be "ethnic" oneself, it's foolish.

Let's face it, we are all Aussies (all bebe it from various backgrounds), but we've come here to better our lives as our places of birth obviously couldn't do.

I mean, I'm born and bred in the UK, but you'll get no more prouder singer (or louder) of Advance Australia Fair at a Socceroos (or is that Footballroos) game. And the tears I shed on that night at the MCG (that we don't mention anymore), were like nothing I've ever cried for England (and couldn't be).

So 'The Force' are on the right track, it's now up to the ethnic Poms to extract the proverbial digit and get down to a game, join in the singing and enjoy football in a safe, new all-seater, sun-filled Hindmarsh Stadium (with a free beer).

Let's face it, the Southern Stars are still Hellas and United don't exist (and I'll not support nor will 90% of ex-pat Poms a team called United because of a team in red from opp north).
So with some good games and new players (?) we could, I said could see a new Force in Aussie Soccer (oops! did it again), football.

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End of another era in Adelaide

More than one respected Australian soccer identity has gone on record as saying that had Milan Ivanovic played against Iran at the MCG, Oz would have gone to the WC finals.
We hate to bring THAT match up again, but it does seem the highest sort of compliment that you can pay someone. And while it is dangerous to suggest that one man could make the difference between qualification and devastation, if you had to name one player there's little doubt the master sweeper would be the choice.

Joining Adelaide City in 1989 he became only the fifth Zebra to play 300 games for the club. With 2 championship medals, a Player of the Year award and 59 appearances for Oz, Milan has just about done it all. Let's hope he can fulfil his aim of becoming a top class coach. Australian soccer will be all the better if he can remain heavily involved in the game.

Milan, from everyone connected with SU, thank you for helping Australia become truly respected in the international soccer arena. Your boots will be nigh on impossible to fill.

Milan Ivanovic
DoB: 21.12.60
NSL debut: 25/2/89
Adelaide City v Marconi (L2-3)
Age on debut: 28y 66d (sub)

Year	Club	Games (goals)
1989	Adelaide City	19 (1)
89/90	Adelaide City	24 (0)
90/91	Adelaide City	27 (0)
91/92	Adelaide City	28 (0)
92/93	Adelaide City	30 (0)
93/94	Adelaide City	30 (0)
94/95	Adelaide City	25 (0)
95/96	Adelaide City	36 (0)
96/97	Adelaide City	29 (1)
97/98	Adelaide City	24 (0)
98/99	Adelaide City	26 (0)
99/00	Adelaide City	2 (0)
TOTAL		**300 (2)**

Dear Studs Up - P O Box 53, Oakleigh South 3167

Dear Studs Up,

I can think of few people who will enjoy the following more than you will. The extract comes from "Soccer Action" (June 19, 1985 p.6) and is deserving of the utmost admiration.

"The fiery incident that brought about the two send offs was started with a late tackle by Joza Antolovic which caught Bonacic and infuriated the Footscray midfielder to the extent that he chased Antolovic for 20 years."

I would have given up after 20 yards, but Bonacic is obviously made of sterner stuff. He gets my vote for the Most Determined Player ever to grace the NSL.

I came across another "SA" howler a few years ago, but didn't note down the date and page number. I think the team involved was Newcastle who conceded a silly goal because of a misunderstanding between the goalkeeper and a defender. It seems that the defender had the ball but was dispossessed by an opponent. Meanwhile the goalkeeper had come off his line "looking for a passbook" and was easily beaten. It must have been before the days of credit cards and ATMs and also before the rule, beloved of Andy Peschaklis, banning the back pass to the keeper. The report didn't say whether or not the keeper found his book.

As Alan McGilvray said in another context, "The game is not the same".

Cheers,
John Punshon, Melbourne

Dear Studs Up,

Plenty of rubbish to get through before we get to this stage, however.

In the dim dark days of the NSL, the readers may recall that the NSL powers that be, had a very strict rule when it came to deciding where a particular final should take place - if a Sydney team was involved, play it there! Except against Sth Melb.

Back in the late 80's when I had a soft spot for the Melbourne Branch.....ocps, Knights I should say, it galled me when they had to travel to Sydney for a preliminary final against Sydney Olympic (which they lost - Olympic going on to win the title) when the respective ladder positions after the home and away season were 2nd and 5th!

Other notable instances were as follows:- In that same year involving Olympic again but against Adelaide City. 1988 Wollongong having to play both Marconi and Sydney United in Sydney rather than on their own paddock 1991 Sth Melb travelled to Adelaide for the Preliminary when they were placed higher.

I believe the reason was to maximise crowds. As we now know, whoever is placed higher gets the home game.

I am going to contradict myself here but I believe that we should consider reverting to the earlier position of Soccer Australia using there discretion over where a final is played.

The difference between 1988 and 1999 is pronounced insofar as the difference between an Adelaide City crowd and an Olympic crowd in 1988 was negligible whereas the diference between a Perth crowd and a Sydney United crowd nowadays is, as we know, significant (refer 1999 final series). Plus my anti-Sydney stance has dissipated.

Perhaps financial guarantees (similar to what Jeff Kennett gave Soccer Australia in 1997 to obtain the World Cup Qualifier against Iran at the MCG) from the bigger club who ended the season lower on the table could be used as insurance against a lower than expected crowd from the higher supported club. Bottom line is, big crowds in Aussie Soccer make the news.

Sam Jonis
Melbourne

Calling all pioneers....

Greg Stock is putting together a list of Australians who played overseas in the 1960s and 70s and is looking for some help. Here is the list he currently has and if anybody has any additions to it could they please get in touch through the usual channels on page 2. Many thanks.

Charlie Perkins - Bishop Auckland (Eng), Max Huffa - ??, Max Tolson - Workington (Eng)
John Roberts - Stockport County (Eng), Alan Westwater - Stirling Albion (Sco)
John Yzendoorn - Derby County (Eng), Col Curran - Manchester United (Eng)
Ray Baartz - Manchester United (Eng), Denis Yeager - Everton (Eng)
John Kosmina - Arsenal (Eng), Adrian Alston - Luton Town (Eng), Tampa Bay Rowdies (USA)
Vernon Wentzel - Johannesburg (SAf)

Trialists
Johnny Watkiss - Nottingham Forest (Eng), Johnny Warren - Stockport County (Eng),
Gary Quested - Wolverhampton (Eng), Fulham (Eng), Atti Abonyi - Manchester United (Eng) in Australia

Whoops!

Paul Harley was kind enough to get in touch re: last issues article on Aussie Pioneers.

"Re James Jackson, " and unfamiliar ones like Renton and Port Glasgow in England. "
ENGLAND? Don't want to sound pedantic, guys, but Renton and Port Glasgow (well, the Glasgow part should surely be a giveaway) are both in Scotland. Otherwise, very interesting article in another very interesting issue"

Thanks for that Paul. We get the hint. It's time we started proofreading twice or thrice.

Yet another record for Tobin

While former Oz captain Alex Tobin is temporarily on the outer when it comes to the national team, Adelaide Force's 2-1 win over Parramatta Power on October 15 marked another national league milestone in an amazing career. No doubt the Socceroo legend will be more interested in his team getting the three points, but the victory marked occasion number 185 that Alex has featured in a winning NSL team, eclipsing the previous record of Sergio Melta, another Adelaide (City) legend. Currently lurking in third place on the all-time table is Paul Trimboli, just seventeen wins behind Tobin.

Not Vasco da Gama again?

Spooky, eh? Just as South Melbourne are drawn to play Vasco da Gama in the World Club Championship, so too were the Adelaide 36s in the (Basketball) World Club Championship which took place last month!

Did that REALLY happen?

OCTOBER

1 – The official FIFA website reveals that 103 nations have entered the World Cup qualifying competition. Australia is not among them in fact the only Oceania nation entered thus far is New Zealand. Which kind of makes a mockery of all the "can't wait to get to the World Cup" type talk. When contacted, SocAus claimed the papers were in the mail (stop that sniggering up the back please!)

3 – Peter Dwyer makes his return to the NSL, 11 years (and 134 days) after his last appearance, for Brisbane Lions. And he scores the only goal of the game at Somers St.

4 – Frank Farina is the subject of a 25 minute interview on The Tracey Holmes Show on C7 Sports, but due to the two week delay between recording and screening there are some cringe-worthy comments re: the upcoming Brazil matches...

5 – "a volcanic glass, usu. Carlton launch their season at the Nike Superstore and reveal their new obsibian shirt. Obsi what? Well, according to our mate John's Macquarie Dictionary obsidian *is "a volcanic glass usually of a dark colour and with a conchoidal fracture"* Hmm, conchoidal ffracture. Sounds like Andy Cole was involved.

7 – Paul Agostino scores an astonishing seven goals for 1860 Munich in a 16-0 friendly romp against a local amateur team. And our 2002 World Cup enrolment is received at FIFA HQ.

14 - Northern Spirit announces a twin major sponsorship deal with Credex and Eagle Wireless, worth $1.6 million.

15 – Clayton Zane plays his last match for Northern Spirit before heading off to Norwegian club Molde. The fee is reportedly $700,000.

16 – Mark Viduka hits a hat-trick as Celtic demolish Aberdeen 7-0 in the Scottish Premier League.

17 – Carlton win 4-0 at Marconi, and in doing so inflict the Stallions' worst home defeat for over twenty years (v Fitzroy (0-4) 17.8.79). Dubious antics before the match as well, when a fan releases a small pig on to the arena. Which wouldn't normally rate a mention in this column, except this little piggy was wearing what appeared to be a Stallionette's skirt, and after wriggling out of that made straight toward two, er, well proportioned policemen.

Um, I suppose you had to be there...

31 – The Melbourne Knights win their first match for the season and it may just have been the Federal Opposition Leader's pre-match speech about the referendum which made the difference. Or maybe not...

And it's a perfect weekend for the Knights with the news that Mark Viduka has hit another hat-trick for Celtic – this time in just seven minutes!

(right) FOL Kim Beazley received a generous hand after his pre-match speech

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW SOUNDS FOR YOUR BEAT BOX

Hot on the heels of the Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem & Chants CD comes the latest release from Somers St – "Hot Knights" – which by all accounts is a Ricky Martin type affair. Not exactly our cup of Strongbow but better Ricky Martin than Ray Martin. Fancy a lyric taster?

There's a heartbeat, there's a feeling, everybody wants to know
brand new days, our winning ways, desire is hot, the ball hits the spot
(chorus)
We're hot Knights, Melbourne Knights, Hot Knights, Knights side by side
The crowd comes alive for Hot Knights

Um, we're not sure about the winning ways bit, but full marks to the Knights for at least having a go. We hope all fun-loving fans get both CDs and support showing some initiative.

Contact either Canberra Cosmos Club Shop on (02) 6281 7981or the Knights Club Shop on (03) 9312-3584

A once in a lifetime experience on offer....

As a duty to soccer fans all over Australia (and not as a response to articles earlier in this issue), we are happy to pass on details of the Oz club trip of a lifetime – to Brazil.

The package is airfare plus tickets to all three double-headers at the Maracana, plus tickets for the 3rd v 4th and the Final.

The cost is $5,999 plus taxes (business class) or $2300 (economy class).

Accomodation is $115 per night per person twin share or $215 per night per person single rate.

Thankfully, the cost includes breakfast. But the added bonus is that you will be staying in the same hotel (Le Meridien) as South Melbourne and Manchester United!

For further details contact Damien Phillips at South Melbourne Soccer Club on (03) 9645 9797 or Andy Miridakis at Parthenon Travel on (03) 9639 1177.

Fans of Croatian soccer....

or top quality soccer in general may well be interested in getting along to Somers St on December 5, when the touring Hajduk Split will take on a Victorian all-star side at Knights Stadium. Socceroo and Hajduk captain Josip Skoko will be on display, so we can only hope that the kick-off time won't clash with the South Melbourne v Parramatta Power match.

And, of course,

we hope you'll support SU and get hold of a copy of **'The Beginners Guide to the History of the Australian National Soccer League'** which is remarkably good value for $10 considering the contents. Available through SU (see page 2) or Melbourne Sports Books, 9 Elizabeth St, Melbourne. And hopefully a NSL club shop near you....

And it would be terribly remiss of us if we didn't advise you of the availability of back issues. They are available in limited quantities so individual enquiries are recommended. If you are desperate to get hold of a particular issue or article we're sure we could work something out.

WIN!!! WIN!!! WIN!!!

COMPETITION 1.

Prizes:
1 Perth Glory book – Glory 3
1 Studs Up Cap – Fully adjustable with a specially designed long peak, just perfect for those 6pm kick-offs when you're in the Eastern Stand.

Question: What joke might these two ex-Wolves be sharing after meeting up at Somers St?

In the unlikely event of a tie, we also ask you to provide us with Brian MacNicol's real hair colour.

WIN!!! WIN!!! WIN!!!

COMPETITION 2.

Prize: 1 Black Studs Up T-Shirt + 1 Studs Up Cap

Question: Approximately how many fans were seated in the Eastern Stand at the Carlton v Melb Knights Round 4 clash at Olympic Park?

In the unlikely event of a tie, we also ask you to provide us with Archie Thompson's real hair colour.

Answers to the usual 'In' boxes (see page 2) by November 30. Winners announced next issue, when we'll reveal details of our Xmas stocking!